



**Mississippi Works:**  
**WIOA**  
**Newsletter**

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*This newsletter will provide weekly updates regarding Mississippi's WIOA planning process. Our state will be an early implementer and will submit a combined plan by the end of September*

## **What will Mississippi's future workforce system look as a result of WIOA?**

Never before have so many stakeholders in Mississippi come together to create a workforce system that acts and functions as an ecosystem. Through the WIOA planning process, core and strategic partners have collaborated to align programs and resources to strengthen interagency partnerships. Together, these partners have developed a shared governance structure with clear policies and procedures that have resulted in an unprecedented opportunity to improve our workforce participation rate.

Strategies are now in place to build more bridges between employers and educational sectors. In addition to increased employer involvement, assessments are being selected to act as common measurements for those considering a career and technical pathway. This framework will signal to employers that individuals with this common credential have the skill level needed to be effective in their job. The overarching goal is to create opportunities for Mississippians to receive higher skills and higher wages as they progress through the pathway pipeline.

Ultimately, the writing of the WIOA plan has given Mississippi's leaders, economic developers, and policy makers an opportunity to better align resources and invest in the strategies that will better train and educate our workforce. Mississippi has balanced its early implementer timeline with broad stakeholder engagement during the planning process to help ensure our WIOA plan is supported by those who will implement it and those who will benefit from it. The planning process has been inclusive and transparent, with the goal to allow every Mississippian who wants a job to have a job. Our leaders have made this their top priority, and we can expect to see results through future economic growth and prosperity right here at home.



*The WIOA technical team updates and reviews our existing plan at the NSPARC facility in Starkville.*

## Weekly Update

The internal team has been working with core partners to ensure their specific elements and policies are accurate in the overall plan. Agency partners have been reviewing their program-specific components and providing input to assist the writing team in addressing the Department of Labor's guidelines for WIOA.

There will be a third public hearing on Friday, September 18, at 10 a.m. in Room 145 of the Woolfolk Building located at 501 North West Street in Jackson. This hearing will be the final opportunity for all stakeholders to provide input before the plan is submitted to the Department of Labor.

## **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING IN PLANNING THE STATE'S WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT PROPOSAL**

The State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB) will hold a public hearing on Friday, September 18, at 10 a.m. in Room 145 of the Woolfolk Building located at 501 North West Street in Jackson, Mississippi.

The purpose is to receive public comments in the planning of the state's Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). This meeting is the third and final public hearing on the WIOA plan. The hearing is specifically designed to give the public the opportunity to hear about the WIOA planning process and to allow the public to offer any comments about the proposed plan.

Additional information and the planning document can be found at <http://swib.ms.gov/>. Written comments may be emailed to James Williams at [jwilliams@swdb-ms.org](mailto:jwilliams@swdb-ms.org) and will be noted, recorded, and considered.

Versions of these documents in Braille are available upon request. If you would like to review the documents on the Newline for the Blind at no cost, you may apply online at [www.nfb.org](http://www.nfb.org) or contact Margaret Smitherman at the Library for the Blind at (601) 432-4111.

## **Contact**

For more information, visit the WIOA tab at <http://swib.ms.gov/>.

Questions? Contact James Williams at 601-321-6046 or [jwilliams@swdb-ms.org](mailto:jwilliams@swdb-ms.org).